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1. In what ways is the population of the United States more concentrated than that of the Soviet Union?

The population of the United States is more concentrated than that of the Soviet Union, in that the list of the top cities that totals 100 million urban residents in each country would include only about 400 US cities compared with nearly 800 Soviet cities.

Most of the difference in urban concentration in such a list exists in the cities with between about 20,000 and 50,000 residents. More Soviet cities in the lower part of the range would have to be included to reach 100 million residents than in the US.

US urban population also represents a larger proportion of the total population than does that of the Soviet Union, and the concentration of US urban population in several huge megalopolises makes the US population potentially more vulnerable to fallout.

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VULNERABILITY TO MISSILE ATTACK

In what ways is the population of the United States more concentrated than that of the Soviet Union?

The population of the United States is more concentrated than that of the Soviet Union in that the number of Soviet cities of roughly 25,000 people or more is at least twice the number of similar-sized US cities, despite the larger US total urban population. Furthermore, US urban population represents a larger proportion of the total population than does that of the Soviet Union. Finally, the concentration of US urban population in several huge megalopolises makes the US population more vulnerable to fallout.

In what ways is the population of the Soviet Union more concentrated than that of the United States?

The urban population of the Soviet Union is more densely concentrated than that of the United States, since the people reside in a smaller total urban area. Unlike cities in the United States, Soviet cities are not surrounded by sprawling suburbs. In addition, there is no city in the US which compares to Moscow in its political and economic significance to the rest of the country.

Would the destruction of the 25 largest cities in the United States assuming total loss of life, involve more fatalities than the destruction of the 25 largest cities in the Soviet Union?

> The destruction of the 25 largest cities in the United States with total loss of life would result in over twice as many fatalities as the destruction of the 25 largest cities in the Soviet Union--over 60 million US urban fatalities compared to under 30 million Soviet urban fatalities.

It would require more--or much larger-warheads to achieve total loss of life in the largest US cities because of the greater urban sprawl.